

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G11B19/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G11B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 1 139 342 A (VICTOR COMPANY OF JAPAN) 4 October 2001 (2001-10-04) paragraph '0027! - paragraph '0029! -----	1-30
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2002, no. 03, 3 April 2002 (2002-04-03) & JP 2001 312827 A (MINOLTA CO LTD), 9 November 2001 (2001-11-09) abstract -----	1-30



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 July 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

12/07/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax. (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Poth, H

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB2004/050336

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 1139342	A	04-10-2001	JP 9274765 A EP 1139342 A2 DE 69709011 D1 DE 69709011 T2 DE 69727989 D1 EP 0833311 A2 US 2003161231 A1 US 6249494 B1 US 2001055256 A1 US 6052344 A		21-10-1997 04-10-2001 24-01-2002 02-05-2002 08-04-2004 01-04-1998 28-08-2003 19-06-2001 27-12-2001 18-04-2000
JP 2001312827	A	09-11-2001	NONE		